

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 281540Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3560

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CU, PO

SUBJ: CUBA AND PORTUGAL

1. OTELO VISITS CUBA: COPCON COMMANDER AND TRIUMVIRATE MEMBER GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO AND FOUR OTHER PORTUGUESE OFFICERS ARE IN CUBA ON OFFICIAL EIGHT-DAY VISIT AT INVITATION OF CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAUL CASTRO. PORTUGUESE OFFICERS ACCOMPANYING ARE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER CAPTAIN ANTONIO MARQUES JUNIOR, ARMY CAPTAIN GERTRUDES DA SILVA, NAVY LT. FERREIRA DE CARVALHO, AND AIR FORCE MAJOR FERNANDES. MISSION ARRIVED IN CUBA JULY 22 AND HAS HAD EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH MILITARY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS.

2. GOP DELEGATION RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT.

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OTELO MET JULY 26 FOR SEVERAL HOURS WITH FIDEL CASTRO,

LABLED TALKS" EXTREMELY IMPORTANT;" AND STATED THAT CASTRO "GUARANTEED WHATEVER AID CUBA IS ABLE TO GIVE, OF WHATEVER KIND". OTELO LATER ADDRESSED SANTA CLARA RALLY ON CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, LAUDED CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY SUCCESS AT A TIME WHEN "ENTIRE AMERICAN CONTINENT WAS THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES."

3. CUBANS VISIT PORTUGAL: SEVEN-MAN CUBAN MILITARY DELEGATION VISITED IN LISBON ON JULY 25 - 27. GROUP WAS HEADED BY GENERAL SENEN CASAS REGUEIRO, ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF AND VICE PRIME MINISTER. ACTIVITIES OF VISITORS WERE LARGELY CEREMONIAL, ALTHOUGH A "WORKING SESSION" WAS REPORTED ON JULY 27 WITH HIGH-RANKING PORTUGUESE MILITARY. PORTUGUESE PRESS, TELEVISION, AND RADIO HAS BEEN FILLED WITH FAVORABLE REPORTING AND COMMENTARY ON CUBAN REVOLUTION.

4. COMMENT: THE CUBAN REVOLUTION HAS IMPRESSED SOME LEFTIST MEMBERS OF THE AFM, AND HAS ALREADY INFLUENCED PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS BY SERVING AS A PARTIAL MODEL FOR THE RECENTLY-APPROVED PLAN FOR "DIRECT DEMOCRACY." IF OTELO, WHO IS GAINING GROUND IN THE AFM POWER STRUGGLE, IS AS IMPRESSED BY CUBA AS HE CLAIMS TO BE, THEN ONE CAN EXPECT TO SEE AN INCREASED INTEREST IN DRAWING UPON THE CUBAN MODEL FOR SOLUTIONS TO PORTUGUESE PROBLEMS.
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